

JAN 22 2007

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FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL FORM	Application Number	10/560702
	Confirmation Number	1948
	Filing Date	June 9, 2004
	First Named Inventor	Hauptmann, Holger
	Examiner Name	
Fax: 571-273-8300	Attorney Docket Number	58688US004
Total Number of Pages in This Submission: 3		
Date: January 22, 2007	Attorney for Applicant: Sean Edman	

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
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Customer Number

JAN 22 2007

Patent
Case No.: 58688US004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: HAUPTMANN, HOLGER

Application No.: 10/560702

Confirmation No.: 1948

Filed: June 9, 2004

Title: UNIFORMLY COLOURED CERAMIC FRAMEWORK AND COLOURING
SOLUTIONRESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being:

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Date

Signed by: Judy Knutson

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed December 20, 2006. Claims 14-34 are pending. Claims 14-34 were restricted under 35 USC § 121 as follows:

- I. Claims 14-20 are said to be drawn to a composition;
- II. Claims 21-26 and 31-34 are said to be drawn to a process;
- III. Claims 27-30 are said to be drawn to an article of manufacture.

Election

In response, Applicants elect Group III, with traverse.

Reconsideration and withdrawal or modification of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the Groups I, II and III claims are so interrelated that a search of one group of claims will reveal art to the other. Moreover, the classification of Groups I, II and III claims in different classes and subclasses is not necessarily sufficient grounds to require restriction.

Were restriction to be effected between the claims in Groups I, II and III, a separate examination of the claims in Groups I, II and III would require substantial duplication of work on the part of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Even though some additional consideration would be necessary, the scope of analysis of novelty of all the claims of Groups I, II and III would

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have to be as rigorous as when only the claims of Group III were being considered by themselves. Clearly, this duplication of effort would not be warranted where these claims of different categories are so interrelated. Further, Applicants submit that for restriction to be effected between the claims in Groups I, II and III, it would place an undue burden by requiring payment of a separate filing fee for examination of the nonelected claims, as well as the added costs associated with prosecuting two applications and maintaining two patents.

Conclusion

Applicants have elected Group III, claims 27-30. Continued prosecution of this application is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no fee is due; however, in the event a fee is required, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 13-3723. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the indicated telephone number with questions that can be resolved with a simple teleconference.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
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By:


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